

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H 307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Rancho California Water District – Water Supply Reliability Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Rancho California Water District, located 42135 Winchester Road, Temecula, CA 92590.

The funding would be used to upgrade a critical pump station that is a central source of water supply for over 15,000 acres including rural residential customers and agriculture, which contribute significantly to an agricultural economy worth over \$1 billion, annually. Work performed for the project will include construction of a new higher capacity pump station and installation of an emergency backup power generator; which will accommodate a heli-hydrant reservoir for use by fire-fighting helicopters.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Rancho Water's distribution system provides drinking water to a large portion of western Riverside County. Of particular importance to this system is the Carancho Pump Station, which is a keystone asset in the western portion of the District's service area, serving a large number of agricultural growers and rural residential customers. This pump station is crucial for maximizing local groundwater resources and for efficiently pumping water throughout the western portion of our system; however, a recent analysis showed the station is undersized and in critical need of improvement. Specifically, it showed that absent an upgrade, a substantial portion of our western service area is vulnerable to water supply shortages during emergencies such as a wildfires, earthquakes, or Public Safety Power Shutdowns from the regional electrical utility.

Without a reliable source of water for this area, the District is forced to rely more heavily on already-stressed California State Water Project and Colorado River, access to drinking water for thousands of people is threatened, and crop production for over 15,000 acres could suffer and cause significant economic damage to a regional agricultural sector valued at over \$1 billion annually. In addition, without the proposed project, a large portion of southwestern Riverside County is vulnerable to a wildfire disaster, which could negatively impact thousands of lives (including Disadvantaged Communities) and cause extensive property and environmental damage in urban areas and throughout the neighboring Cleveland National Forest, which is home to many sensitive habitats and species.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting an important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", with a stylized, cursive script.

DARRELL ISSA  
Member of Congress